

Appl. No. 09/980,330
Atty. Docket No 7596
Amdt. dated April 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 19, 2005
Customer No. 27752

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) An absorbent article comprising:

- (a) a topsheet;
- (b) a backsheet formed from a moisture vapor permeable, substantially liquid impermeable composite sheet material, said composite sheet material comprising:
 - (i) a first fibrous nonwoven web having a first side and an opposite second side;
 - (ii) a second fibrous nonwoven web having a first side and an opposite second side, the first side of said second fibrous nonwoven web abutting the second side of said first fibrous nonwoven web;

said first and second fibrous nonwoven webs each being powder-bonded webs wherein the fibers of said first and second fibrous webs are bonded to the other fibers of such web by a synthetic adhesive permeating said first and second nonwoven fibrous webs, and wherein the first and second fibrous nonwoven webs are bonded to each other by said adhesive; and

- (iii) a moisture vapor permeable thermoplastic film bonded to the second side of said second fibrous nonwoven web;

wherein:

- (I) at least 90 weight percent of the fibers in said first fibrous nonwoven web are compatible with said adhesive;

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- (II) between 25 and 75 weight percent of the fibers in said second fibrous nonwoven web are compatible with said adhesive and said thermoplastic film;
 - (III) between 75 and 25 weight percent of the fibers in said second fibrous nonwoven web are incompatible with said adhesive and said thermoplastic film; and
 - (IV) at least 50 weight percent of the polymer in said thermoplastic film is compatible with said adhesive; and
- (c) an absorbent core located between said topsheet and said backsheet.
2. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 1, wherein the weight of the fibers in said second nonwoven fibrous web is between 1/4 and 4 times the weight of the fibers in said first nonwoven fibrous web.
3. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein said composite sheet exhibits a peel strength of at least 0.1 N/cm, a hydrostatic head of at least 60 cm, and a moisture vapor transmission rate, according to the LYSSY method, of at least 1000 g/m²/24hr.
4. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein:
- (a) said adhesive is a polyester polymer or polyester copolymer adhesive;
 - (b) said moisture vapor permeable film is comprised of at least about 75% by weight of polymer selected from the group of block copolyether esters, block copolyether amides, copolyether imide esters, polyurethanes, polyvinyl alcohol, and combinations thereof;
 - (c) at least 90 weight percent of the fibers in said first fibrous nonwoven web are made of polymer selected from the group of polyester polymers and copolymers;

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- (d) between 25 and 75 weight percent of the fibers in said second fibrous nonwoven web are made of polymer selected from the group of polyester polymers and copolymers; and
 - (e) between 75 and 25 weight percent of the fibers in said second fibrous nonwoven web are made of polymer selected from the group of polyamides, polyolefins, acrylics, and cotton.
- 5. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein said polyester polymers and polyester copolymers in said fibers are selected from the group of poly(ethylene terephthalate), poly(1,3-propylene terephthalate) and copolymers thereof.
 - 6. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein said moisture vapor permeable film is comprised of at least about 75% by weight of block copolyether esters.
 - 7. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 6, wherein said moisture vapor permeable film consists essentially of a copolyether ester elastomer.
 - 8. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein the composite sheet is substantially free of pinholes, and substantially no liquid passes through the sheet when tested according to the liquid seepage test.
 - 9. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 8, wherein said composite sheet prevents passage of microbes when tested according to the ISO 11607 standard for sterile packaging materials.
 - 10. (original) The absorbent article of Claim 1 wherein said moisture vapor permeable film has first and second layers, each of said layers being comprised of a different moisture vapor permeable thermoplastic polymer composition.